

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEBRASKA

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USDA Rural Development Announces \$42 Million in Funds At Hand --Rural Nebraska communities to benefit.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 19, 2001— The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development in Nebraska announced that it has received program allocations for Fiscal Year 2001 totaling over \$41.8 million. USDA Rural Development programs aid rural Nebraska communities in growth and sustainability.

“During my term as Nebraska State Director for USDA Rural Development, which has been for the past four fiscal years, nearly \$236 million has been provided to rural Nebraskans by USDA Rural Development,” said State Director Jim Otto. Otto continued, “ I have had the opportunity and privilege to see first hand the positive impact on rural communities that our financial assistance, along with the monies of our many funding partners, has had. Rural communities need the financial support that we offer to remain prosperous and competitive. I prompt communities to consult with us regarding their specific needs.”

The \$41.8 million in funding will be utilized in Nebraska through Rural Development programs that provide assistance to eligible applicants in rural communities for: single family housing and home repairs, water and sewer systems, business infrastructure, hospitals, libraries, day care centers, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue equipment and buildings, along with various other projects. Certain eligibility criterion does apply for each specific program.

A “rural” community is defined by the following population limits set for each of the programs. These population limits are mandated in national regulations.

- ♦Housing and home repairs, population 20,000 and under.
- ♦Community facilities (i.e. hospitals, libraries, etc.) population 20,000 and under.
- ♦Water and sewer projects, 10,000-population limit.
- ♦Business infrastructure up to 50,000 population.

For further information on USDA Rural Development programs in Nebraska, please contact your local USDA Rural Development Office located in the phone directory under U.S. Government. You can also contact the Lincoln State Office at 402-437-5551 or write USDA Rural Development Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3888. Visit our website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/ for additional program information or to find your local USDA Rural Development Office.

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